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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/769,405	01/26/2001	Arthur W. Lauder	143-3US	4701

20212 7590 05/28/2003

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EXAMINER

SCHIFFMAN, JORI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 05/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/769,405	LAUDER, ARTHUR W.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Jori R. Schiffman	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Appeal

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 1, 2, and 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bair (US 4668117) in view of Beurer (US 3950017).

Regarding claims 1 and 7, Bair discloses a rod coupling comprising a tubular housing 10 having a first end adapted for a threaded connection 11 to a rod in a downhole rod string and a second end adapted for a threaded connection to a rod in a downhole rod string, the tubular housing having an exterior surface with a coating 15. As to claim 7, Bair also discloses a rod string formed of plural rods connected by plural rod couplings (Fig. 6). Bair fails to disclose the tubular housing having an interior surface defining a bore, the bore having plural openings extending transversely through the housing. Beurer teaches a tubular housing 12 with a bore extending therethrough and plural openings 18 extending transversely through the housing so polyurethane can flow through the holes to

prevent separation of the connection. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a bore with plural openings extending transversely through the housing on Bair's rod coupling as disclosed in Beurer so the coating can flow through the holes to create a more secure connection on the coupling.

As to claims 2 and 11, once the combination is made, modified Bair discloses the coating extending into the openings.

Regarding claims 4 and 8, modified Bair discloses openings that taper from the exterior surface of the housing to the interior surface (Fig. 3 of Beurer).

Referring to claims 5 and 9, modified Bair discloses the openings distributed uniformly around the tubular housing.

Regarding claims 6 and 10, modified Bair discloses the openings distributed in plural rows.

4. Claims 3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bair (US 4668117) in view of Beurer (US 3950017) as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and further in view of Edge (US 272033).

Regarding claims 3 and 12, modified Bair discloses the rod coupling as above except for the coating extending through the openings to form knobs inside the tubular housing. However, the formation of knobs would occur naturally since there is not anything to prevent the coating from extending into the bore, as discussed by Edge (lines 41-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a

person of ordinary skill in the art for the coating on the housing of modified Bair to form knobs when it extends through the openings as disclosed in Edge.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited further to show the state of the art with respect to couplings in general: U.S. Pat. No. 425071 to Greene and U.S. Pat. No. 5660492 to Bathon.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jori R. Schiffman whose telephone number is 703-305-4805. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on 703-308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-1113.

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Jori R. Schiffman
Examiner
Art Unit 3679

JS
May 22, 2003



Lynne H. Browne
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3679